

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 13-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24 and 26-43 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 42 and 43 are hereby canceled by this Amendment without prejudice or disclaimer.

Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for briefly discussing proposed claim amendments on July 9, 2008. The principal amendments were directed to claims 1, 10, 13 and 21.

The undersigned also thanks the Examiner for agree to accept the claim amendments as proposed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 42 and 43 are allowed. However, as Applicants have incorporated some of this allowable material into other independent claims, Applicant cancel these claims as being duplicative.

The pending claims stand rejection as follows:

(1) Claims 1, 3, 5, 9-10, 13, 17-18, 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamori et al. (USP 5,957,127) in view of Dietz (USP 5,005,571);

(2) Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 13-14, 17-18 and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Fertig;

(3) Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 13-18, 20-21, 24-26 and 33-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil et al. (USP 5,957,127) in view of Dietz (USP 5,005,571); and

(4) Claims 1, 3-5, 9-10, 13, 15, 17-18, 20-21, 24, 26-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Toole (USP 6,379,312) in view of Passaro et al. (USP 4,423,739) and further in view of Yamamori.

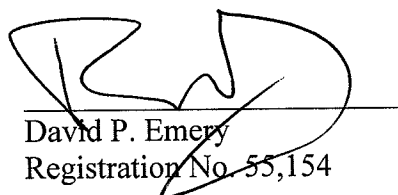
Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments to claims 1, 10, 13 and 21 render the present rejections moot with respect to these claims. Further, claims 3-5, 9, 14-15, 17, 18, 20, 24 and 26-41 are submitted to be allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Emery
Registration No. 55,154

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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